

August 19, 2011

VIA Email Delivery

Office of Economic Adjustment
Department of Defense
FFOsubmit@wso.whs.mil

Re: Transportation Infrastructure Comments
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

To Whom It May Concern:

Our firm represents the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart ("Stone Ridge"), which is immediately adjacent to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Stone Ridge is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the proposed review criteria for the Base Realignment and Closure ("BRAC") Federal Funding Opportunity set forth in the July 21, 2011 Federal Register.

Stone Ridge has been a longtime supporter of the BRAC effort to establish the new Walter Reed Military Medical Center at Bethesda, even though the expanded military campus will have substantial impacts to Stone Ridge and the surrounding community. Stone Ridge is a member of the BRAC Implementation Committee that advises Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett on, among other things, how to address these impacts. While the Federal Funding Opportunity should provide critical funds to lessen the BRAC impacts in Bethesda, the current review criteria need to be adjusted to ensure that funding proposals are evaluated as fairly as possible.

In broad terms, the current selection criteria weighting is as follows:

- (a) 25% to transportation issues that impede the provision of care at the military medical facility
- (b) 25% to the magnitude of the transportation issue that affects the military medical facility
- (c) 25% to the ability to get the project completed in a reasonable time
- (d) 25% to the extent to which the proposed construction solves the transportation issue

Because these criteria are heavily weighted (50%) toward those projects that address transportation issues that impede the functioning of medical facilities (as opposed to BRAC's

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effect on the local community, commuters, neighbors, etc. that might not have anything to do with the medical facility except that they have to drive by it or are located near it), Stone Ridge suggests the following, fairer alternative for "Criterion (b)":

"The magnitude (e.g. overall number of people affected, degree of failure, etc.) of the transportation issue that affects [Add] the community outside of the military medical facility, expressed in terms of accepted and appropriate transportation planning and assessment techniques (the greater the magnitude of the issue, the higher the score), 25%;"

Out of fairness to the community and to be consistent with the intent of the BRAC funding appropriation, "Criterion (b)" must be changed to provide appropriate weight to transportation projects that affect the community, as distinguished from the medical facility. In most cases, the distinction will not matter because the community and the medical facility are mutually interested in the successful completion of transportation projects in the area of the medical facility. However, in some cases, the weighting for a project may be different if the evaluation prism looks only at how the transportation issue "affects the military medical facility" (vs. the surrounding community). It may even be the difference between funding and no funding for important community projects.

As a result, Stone Ridge respectfully requests the above modification to "Criterion (b)". Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important funding opportunity.

Sincerely,



Patrick L. O'Neil

cc: Phil Alperson
Coalition of Concerned Medical Center Neighbors
The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce